

Charter Commission Feedback Session – Comment Form

| Like It? | | | Charter Component (use space below to comment/suggest improvements) |
|----------|----|----------|---|
| Yes | No | Not Sure | |
| ✓ | | | 13 member Town Council – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) not sure of term term length, but that's detail. We need a more accountable legislative body |
| ✓ | | | Mayor – elected at-large (4-year term) I think we need Amaya to create and implement a vision. We We need to make a leap to secure the future of Amherst for the next generation. |
| ✓ | | | Precinct Meetings with Councilors , at least quarterly, open to all residents Definitely need a venue for our current TM diachords to stay engaged - on the rest of us, too. Topic driven, too. |
| ✓ | | | Civic Engagement Officer (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) |
| ✓ | | | Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools |
| ✓ | | | Annual State-of-the-Town Address by mayor critical - maybe twice a year - but <u>meeting</u> made that talk |
| ✓ | | | Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents (via email, web post, news column, etc.) critical - |
| | | | Master Plan Adoption by Town Council , with citizen participation |
| ✓ | | | "Participatory Budgeting" (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) great idea to get young folks involved |
| | | | Citizen Petition to Town Council – Council action discretionary |
| | | | Group Petition to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures 04 |

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| Yes | No | Not Sure | |
| | | | Citizen Initiative – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters |
| | | | Citizen Veto – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters |
| | | | Citizen Recall of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected |
| | | | Term Limits on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any). <i>Yes, especially for Town Council/Town Meeting.</i> |
| | | | Public Campaign Supports – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors |
| | | | Chief Administrative Officer (senior level) or Chief of Staff (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor |
| ✓ | | | Runoff Elections or “Ranked-Choice Voting” to ensure majority vote for elected officials <i>Like it</i> |
| ✓ | | | Early Voting offered for all local elections |
| ✓ | | | Voting by Mail offered for all local elections |
| | | | [Your idea here] |
| | | | [Your idea here] |

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| ✓ | | | 13 member Town Council – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) |
| ✓ | | | Mayor – elected at-large (4-year term) |
| ✓ | | | Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors , at least quarterly, open to all residents |
| ✓ | | | Civic Engagement Officer (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) |
| ✓ | | | Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools |
| ✓ | | | Annual State-of-the-Town Address by mayor |
| ✓ | | | Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents (via email, web post, news column, etc.) |
| ✓ | | | Master Plan Adoption by Town Council , with citizen participation |
| ✓ | | | “Participatory Budgeting” (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) |
| ✓ | | | Citizen Petition to Town Council – Council action discretionary |
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| ✓ | | | Citizen Veto – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters |
| ✓ | | | Citizen Recall of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected |
| ✓ | | | Term Limits on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any) <i>2 terms</i> |
| ✓ | | | Public Campaign Supports – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors |
| ✓ | | | Chief Administrative Officer (senior level) or Chief of Staff (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor |
| ✓ | | | Runoff Elections or “ Ranked-Choice Voting ” to ensure majority vote for elected officials |
| ✓ | | | Early Voting offered for all local elections |
| ✓ | | | Voting by Mail offered for all local elections |
| | | | <i>[Your idea here]</i> <i>have appointed Board members believe it or not - elected members are too political</i> |
| | | | <i>[Your idea here]</i> |

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| Yes | No | Not Sure | |
| ✓ | | | 13 member Town Council – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) |
| | | ✓ | Mayor – elected at-large (4-year term) <i>don't feel like I know the pros/cons of mayor vs. town manager.</i> |
| ✓ | | | Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors , at least quarterly, open to all residents <i>this helps clarify that the councilors are representative and should be accountable to their constituents.</i> |
| | | ✓ | Civic Engagement Officer (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) <i>position Seems bureaucratic. I'd be inclined to leave this up to the elected officials, this who should be racing to the top to keep their positions.</i> |
| ✓ | | | Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools |
| ✓ | | | Annual State-of-the-Town Address by mayor <i>I feel like we currently have a leadership vacuum in Amherst and love this idea of sharing a vision & making bold change possible</i> |
| | | ✓ | Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents (via email, web post, news column, etc.) <i>Seems like a factual thing. I'd leave this up to the mayor.</i> |
| | | ✓ | Master Plan Adoption by Town Council , with citizen participation <i>I don't know enough about how the role of a master plan to know about the issue & the process.</i> |
| | | ✓ | "Participatory Budgeting" (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) <i>Don't know about this.</i> |
| | | ✓ | Citizen Petition to Town Council – Council action discretionary <i>Don't know about this</i> |
| | | ✓ | Group Petition to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures <i>Don't know about this?</i> |

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| Yes | No | Not Sure | |
| ✓ | | NA | Citizen Initiative – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters <i>I'd be interested to know whether 5% is the right threshold. I support the ability to have citizens put forth issues.</i> |
| ✓ | | | Citizen Veto – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters <i>Again, is 5% a high enough threshold? It shouldn't be so easy to force a veto that issues w/o critical mass of support gum up our democracy.</i> |
| | | | Citizen Recall of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected |
| | | | Term Limits on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any) <i>I'd like 2-3 term limits for the precinct councilors, for a max of 6 yrs in the role. Mayor I'd like 2 term limits. Prevent entrenchment of power.</i> |
| ✓ | | | Public Campaign Supports – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors <i>YES!! Consider a threshold for public financing - candidate needs at least 20 or 50 small donors to qualify.</i> |
| | | ✓ | Chief Administrative Officer (senior level) or Chief of Staff (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor <i>I think there is real value in having a professional town manager.</i> |
| ✓ | | | Runoff Elections or "Ranked-Choice Voting" to ensure majority vote for elected officials <i>This is a great chance for Amherst to lead the nation on this innovative & democratic policy.</i> |
| ✓ | | | Early Voting offered for all local elections <i>Important but expensive. Can we do this w/o breaking the bank? Can technology help? If we</i> |
| | | | Voting by Mail offered for all local elections <i>can file taxes online, why not vote?!</i> |
| | | | [Your idea here] <i>Is there a way to retain professional management? How much has that explored?</i> |
| | | | [Your idea here] |

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| Yes | No | Not Sure | |
| | ✓ | | 13 member Town Council – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) <i>not enough at large</i> |
| | | ✓ | Mayor – elected at-large (4-year term) |
| ✓ | | | Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors , at least quarterly, open to all residents |
| ✓ | | | Civic Engagement Officer (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) |
| | ✓ | | Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools <i>more frequent</i> |
| ✓ | | | Annual State-of-the-Town Address by mayor |
| ✓ | | | Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents (via email, web post, news column, etc.) |
| | | ✓ | Master Plan Adoption by Town Council , with citizen participation |
| ✓ | | | "Participatory Budgeting" (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) |
| ✓ | | | Citizen Petition to Town Council – Council action discretionary |
| ✓ | | | Group Petition to Town Council – Council action required, with 50 signatures |

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| ✓ | | | Citizen Veto – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters |
| ✓ | | | Citizen Recall of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected <i>as long as no higher than 15%</i> |
| | ✓ | | Term Limits on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any) <i>no term limits</i> |
| ✓ | | | Public Campaign Supports – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors |
| ✓ | | | Chief Administrative Officer (senior level) or Chief of Staff (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor <i>how to make this person not in opposition to mayor is the challenge position</i> |
| ✓ | | | Runoff Elections or "Ranked-Choice Voting" to ensure majority vote for elected officials |
| ✓ | | | Early Voting offered for all local elections <i>especially yes if 2 locations some of the time: Town Hall + UMass @ Town Hall should be just like absentee without need to declare absent on election day</i> |
| | | ✓ | Voting by Mail offered for all local elections <i>haven't read details</i> |
| | | | [Your idea here] |
| | | | [Your idea here] |

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| Yes | No | Not Sure | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | 13 member Town Council – 10 precinct representatives (2-year term), 3 at-large (4-year term) <i>7 maximum</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | Mayor – elected at-large (4-year term) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors , at least quarterly, open to all residents |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Civic Engagement Officer (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) <i>it is very easy to get information on web and in person.</i> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Annual State-of-the-Town Address by mayor |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents (via email, web post, news column, etc.) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | Master Plan Adoption by Town Council , with citizen participation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | "Participatory Budgeting" (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) |
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| ✓ | | | Citizen Initiative – force town-wide vote on citizen proposal, with signatures from 5% of registered voters |
| | ✓ | | Citizen Veto – force town-wide vote on whether to overturn Town Council vote, with signatures from 5% of registered voters <i>need more than 5%</i> |
| ✓ | | | Citizen Recall of Elected Officials – with 15% of registered voters; no sooner than 9 months after elected |
| ✓ | | | Term Limits on Elected Officials (tell us what limits you prefer, if any) <i>4 yrs</i> |
| | ✓ | | Public Campaign Supports – provide resources (webpage, newspaper space, etc.) to make it easier for candidates to get noticed without big money; publicize donors |
| | ✓ | | Chief Administrative Officer (senior level) or Chief of Staff (less senior) to provide professional management support for mayor |
| ✓ | | | Runoff Elections or “ Ranked-Choice Voting ” to ensure majority vote for elected officials |
| ✓ | | | Early Voting offered for all local elections |
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| X | | | Mayor – elected at-large (4-year term) |
| X | | | Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors , at least quarterly, open to all residents |
| | X | | Civic Engagement Officer (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) <i>totally unnecessary - use website for info</i> |
| X | | | Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools |
| | | X | Annual State-of-the-Town Address by mayor |
| | X | | Monthly Update from Mayor to Residents (via email, web post, news column, etc.) |
| | X | | Master Plan Adoption by Town Council , with citizen participation |
| X | | | "Participatory Budgeting" (residents suggest and vote on projects to fund through the capital budget, as in Cambridge) |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | Neighborhood Meetings with Councilors , at least quarterly, open to all residents <i>no more than quarterly</i> |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Civic Engagement Officer (helps residents learn about opportunities to participate, and government to communicate better to residents) <i>there is NO difficulty getting this info now. DO NOT NEED</i> |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | Annual Public Forums on budget, master plan, and schools |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Annual State-of-the-Town Address by mayor |
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